

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 718
By Kerr

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Jane Whitaker, Lenoir City High School Physics/Chemistry teacher on receiving the 1998 Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching.

WHEREAS, to be eligible for the prestigious Presidential Award, teachers must document their educational background, their unique qualifications and their accomplishments, and present evidence of professional success to a state selection committee; and

WHEREAS, after a rigorous selection process, Jane Whitaker, Lenoir City High School Physics/Chemistry teacher, was selected a winner of the 1998 Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Whitaker's excellent educational background includes attendance at Delta State University, graduation from the University of New Orleans, with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Biology in 1973; receiving her Master of Science Degree in Science Education from the University of Tennessee in 1986; performing 8 hours of graduate course work in teaching elementary science from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville from June 1991 to July 1994; and performing graduate work toward her Ed.S in Instructional Leadership at Tennessee Technological University beginning September 1996; and

WHEREAS, her outstanding and varied work experience includes admirable service as a middle school General Science teacher at Mater Dolorosa School, Archdiocese of New Orleans

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in 1973-1974, as the Parent Volunteer Coordinator at Eaton Elementary School in Lenoir City from 1981-1983, and in her present position since 1984; and

WHEREAS, Jane Whitaker has followed the finest traditions of the Volunteer State, always willing to lend a helping hand as the school's Science Department Chair, as the Coordinator of the school Science Fair, as the Science Club Sponsor, as a member of the Tennessee Department of Education Science Curriculum Framework Development Committee from 1993 to 1996, and as a session presenter at the National Science Teachers Association National Conference where she spoke eloquently on the Toyota Tapestry Recycling Students project; and

WHEREAS, a member of the National Educational Association and the Tennessee Educational Association since 1984, Jane Whitaker has demonstrated her professional expertise and peerless leadership with the Lenoir City Association of Teachers; as the 1992-1993 President and as the 1993-1994 and 1996-1997 Chief Negotiator; as a member of the American Chemical Society and Division of Chemical Educators since 1986 and as a 1993-1994 member of their High School Committee; as a member of the National Science Teachers Association since 1983 and 1991-1992 and 1996-1997 member of the NSTA Regional Planning Committee; and as a member of the Tennessee Science Teachers Association, having served as the group's 1987-1988 Secretary; as the 1988-1990 President-Elect; as the 1990-1992 President and as the Exhibits Coordinator since 1993; and

WHEREAS, her long list of awards and accolades includes the 1989 Tennessee Academy of Science Distinguished Teacher Award for East Tennessee, the 1989 Southern Appalachian Regional Science and Engineering Fair Reserve Award, the 1991 Champion Student Award, being a 1993 Tennessee Education Association District Teacher nominee, being the lead teacher for the 1996 Toyota Tapestry Grant recipient, being the 1996 Goals 2000

Grant recipient lead teacher for implementation of the project's \$82,000 grant and the 1996 System Nominee for Tennessee Teacher of the Year; and

WHEREAS, she has been praised for her meritorious efforts by educators, students and parents alike; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that we pause to recognize one of our finest teachers; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE-HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we honor and congratulate Jane Whitaker on receiving a 1998 Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching, express our deepest appreciation for her many contributions to her students and her profession and wish her well in her future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.